

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 IO-03 DPW-01 EUR-10

PM-03 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00

PRS-01 AID-10 OMB-01 RSR-01 /081 W

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R 140400Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4583

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 12695

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 3 SITREP - 13 JULY 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON AND
USSAG NKP REPEATED FOR YOU

QUOTE:

BIEN HOA 0285

1. MR3 G-2 REPORTS FURTHER INCREASE IN MILITARY ACTIVITY FOR
48 HOURS ENDING 0800 JULY 13. TWENTY EIGHT COMMUNIST/RVNAF
CLASHES WERE RECORDED IN THE FIRST 24 HOURS AND ANOTHER 22 IN
THE FINAL 24 HOURS, FOR A TOTAL OF 50. THESE INCLUDED 20
ATTACKS BY FIRE (THREE OVER 20 ROUNDS, CAUSING NO CASUALTIES),
18 GROUNDS CONTACTS, 11 MINING/GRENADE INCIDENTS (ALL MILITARY)
AND ONE GVN DEPUTY HAMLET CHIEF (BAU TRE HAMLET) ASSASSINATED
2 KMS NW OF CHU CHI ON JULY 12. WHILE CLASHES ON JULY 11
WERE CONCENTRATED IN BINH DUONG AND PHUOC LONG, MILITARY INCIDENTS
ON JULY 12 WERE RECORDED THROUGHOUT MR3, POSSIBLY SIGNIFYING
A GENERAL BUILD-UP OF INTENSITY OF COMMUNIST ACTIVITY OR RESPONSE
TO GVN INCURSIONS INTO PRG CONTROLLED TERRITORY. REPORTED RVNAF
LOSSES FOR THE PERIOD WERE 11 KIA AND 31 WIA, INCLUDING ONE
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CIVILIAN KILLED AND ONE WOUNDED IN A MORTAR ATTACK 5 KMS NE LAI
KHE ON JULY 11 AND ONE OFFICIAL SHOT IN HAU NGHIA ON JULY 12.
NO MIA WERE REPORTED. GVN WEAPONS LOST OR DESTROYED DURING THE
48 HOURS WERE TWO M-16 RIFLES AND ONE M-79 GRENADE LAUNCHER.

KNOWN COMMUNIST LOSSES IN THE PAST TWO DAYS WERE 17 KILLED, ONE CAPTURED JULY 12 IN PHUOC TUY, 5 KMS SE LONG DIEN, THREE AK-47'S ONE ROCKET LAUNCHER (IDENTIFICATION NOT REPORTED), ONE K-54, ONE M-16, ONE CARBINE, ONE M1 RIFLE ANF TWO HAND GRENADES. TWO ENEMY MINES WERE ALSO FOUND DURING A SEARCH OPERATION 5 KMS E OF XUAN LOC ON JULY 12.

2. FOUR VC/NVA RALLIED TO THE GVN IN THE PAST 48 HOURS, ONE EACH IN BINH LONG, BINH DUONG AND HAU NGHIA, AND ONE MONTAGNARD, ASSISTAND SECRETARY OF THE VC K.17 DISTRICT UNIT IN PHUOC LONG PROVINCE ON JULY 11, WHO BROUGHT WITH HIM ONE M-16 AND ONE K54 REVOLVER. ANOTHER UNIDENTIFIED COMMUNIST SUSPECT WAS DETAINED IN HAU NGHIA ON JULY 11, WHEN THE SECTOR S-3 AIR OPERATIONS OFFICER SWOOPED DOWN WITH HIS HELICOPTER 5 KMS SW OF BAO TRAI TO APPREHEND THIS ALLEGED FEMALE VCI. NCO RALLIER, NGUYEN VAN DINH, WHO REPORTED TO THE 52ND RANGER BN. IN BINH LONG ON JULY 12, IDENTIFIES HIS PARENT UNIT AS THE 203RD AMOR REGIMENT. DINH FURTHER STATED THAT THE D21, D22, AND D23 ARMOR BATTALIONS (SUBORDINATE TO THE 203RD) HAVE RELOCATED, WITH 30 T-54 TANKS IN EACH BATTALION, TO A VALLEY AREA (?) NORTH OF DAU TIENG, ON THE NORTHERN TAY NINH-BING DUONG PROVINCE BORDER AREA.

3. HEAVISEST MILITARY ACTIVITY HAS BEEN RELATED TO ARVN EFFORT TO CLEAR INTERPROVINCIAL ROUTE 1-A NORTH OF PHU GIAO DISTRICT TOWN, BINH DUONG PROVINCE. FIFTEEN MILITARY CLASHES WERE REPORTED, TO INCLUDE FIVE MINOR SHELLING/ROCKETINGS OF THE ARVN 5TH DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND ADJACENT AREAS IN AND AROUND LAI KHE (CAUSING ONLY ONE WOUNDED SOLDIER IN ADDITION TO THE TWO CIVILIAN CASUALTIES CITED ABOVE. IN PHUOC LONG PROVINCE, TEN ENCOUNTERS WERE REPORTED A FEW KILOMETERS NE OF DON LUAN ALONG NATIONAL HIGHWAY 14, WHICH TWO RANGER BATTALIONS CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT TO HOLD OPEN. BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN SUPPLIES ARE EXTREMELY SHORT IN PHUOC BINH-SONG BE AREA OF PROVINCE, AND ON JULY 11 MR3 RECONSTRUCTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ASKED

THE CENTRAL RDC TO GET THE JOINT GENERAL STAFF CENTRAL LOGISTICS
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AGENCY TO TRANSPORT 200 TONS OF RICE (A 20-DAY SUPPLY) FROM SAIGON TO PHUOC LONG ASAP.

4. TWO MINING/GRENADE INCIDENTS AND ONE SMALL ARMS GROUND ATTACK, RESULTING IN ONE RVNAF KILLED AND FOUR WOUNDED, HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN GIA DINH PROVINCE, SE OF THU DUC--APPARENTLY RELATED TO ON-GOING RF OPERATIONS TO SEARCH AND CLEAR AREAS BORDERING THE SAIGON CAPITAL ZONE. OTHER ENGAGEMENTS TOOK PLACE

IN LONG KHANH (6), TAY NINH (4), BIEN HOA (4), HAU NGHIA (3), LONG AN (3) AND PHUOC TUY (2).

5. PHUOC TUY CONSCL REPORTS THAT A LONG DIEN DISTRICT PF PLATOON SUCCESSFULLY AMBUSHED E VC LONG DAT DISTRICT (GVN LONG DIEN AND DAT DO DISTRICTS)

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING AND ITS SECURITY

FORCE AT 0100 JULY 13 IN THE MINH DAM SECRET ZONE, KILLING FIVE AND CAPTURING ONE WHILE SUFFERING TWO PF WOUNDED. INTELLIGENCE FOR THE AMBUSH WAS FURNISHED BY PHUOC TUY SECTOR S-2 AND ITS SITE WAS IN VALLEY IN MINH DAM WELL BEYOND NORMAL PF PATROL AREA. AMBUSH IS LATEST SUCCESS IN PHUOC TUY PROVINCE CHIEF LTC HUYN BUU SON'S RECENT EFFORT TO REDUCE MINH DAM, HISTORICALLY A HAVEN FOR GUERRILLAS. SON'S PRE-CEASE-FIRE II MOVE TO CLEAR PROVINCIAL ROUTE 44 BETWEEN LONG HAI AND PHUOC HAI VILLAGES WHERE MINH DAM MEETS SOUTH CHINA SEA, HAS CUT OFF SEA RESUPPLY TO GUERRILLAS AND MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO ENTER GVN-CONTROLLED AREAS. THERE HAVE BEEN THREE RALLIERS FROM THE AREA IN PAST MONTH, AND REPORTEDLY ONE FOCAL FORCE COMPANY HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM MINH DAM WHILE ONLY ONE UNDER-STRENGTH COMPANY REMAINS.

6. A SMALL SCALE RETURN TO VILLAGE EFFORT OF ABOUT 0100 HOI CANH FAMILIES IN DUC HOA DISTRICT OF HAU NGHIA PROVINCE, DESIGNED TO SOLIDIFY GVN CONTROL OVERCOME CONTESTED TERRITORY, HAS RUN INTO FUNDING PROBLEMS. RALLIERS ARE FORMER RESIDENTS OF THE HAMLET IN SOUTH WESTERN DUC HOA (ERE THEY HAVE BEEN RESETTLED. SEVERAL YEARS AGO, PARTLY BECAUSE OF SYMPATHY WITH THE COMMUNISTS AND PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE PREVAILING POOR SECURITY SITUATION AT THAT TIME, THESE

FAMILIES ABANDONED THEIR HOMES TO LIVE IN COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED AREAS. LATER, DISILLUSIONMENT WITH COMMUNISM CAUSED THEM TO RALLY TO THE GVN. OOW, GVN EFFORTS TO RESETTLE THEM IN THEIR FORMER HAMLET AND THEREBY SECURE CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS TENUOUS AREA TO GVN CONTROL, ARE HUNG UP ON DISPUTE OVER WHETHER SUPPORT FOR THE RETURNEES WILL COME FROM CHIEU HOI OR SOCIAL WELFARE FUNDS. LOCAL GVN DEVELOPMENT OFFICIALS ARE

HOPING THAT SOCIAL WELFARE WILL ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY, SINCE MORE MONEY FOR THE RETURNEES WILL THEN BE MADE AVAILABLE.

7. THE DUPTY SUB SECTOR COMMANDER OF DUC HOA, DAU NGHIA, TOLD CONSUL THAT VC/NVA HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPING BOTH MALE AND FEMALE TEEN-AGERS. ACCORDING TO THE ARVN OFFICER, THE VC/NVA BRING THE TEEN-AGERS TO THPARROT'S BEAK AREA OF CAMBODIA WHERE THEY ARE PROPAGANDIZED. LATER THE VC/NVA FORCE THE YOUTHS TO CARRY AMMUNITION AND DO OTHER JOBS AROUND THE JUNGLE.

8. DUC HOA DISTRICT CHIEF, WELL IN HIS CUPS AFTER A DRINKING SESSION WITH SOME OF HIS TROOPS, LET SHIP TO CONSUL THAT VC/NVA

ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT ONE OF HIS PF PLATOON LEADERS. HE SAID THE PLATOON LEADER REFUSED THE CONTACT AND REPORTED IT TO THE DISTRICT CHIEF. WHEN CONSUL SHOWED INTEREST IN THE MEETING AND ASKED FOR DETAILS, DISTRICT CHIEF CHANGED THE SUBJECT. WALKINSHAW UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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